

Appln No. 09/581,329

Amdt date March 23, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 24, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~modifying a process for manufacturing a tire, said process using an assembly of a support and of a deformable preform for a tire carcass, the deformable preform having a first rectangular general shape and being maintained wound on a periphery of the support, said process comprising stretching the assembly in an outward general direction, with the stretching being carried out after free ends of the deformable preform are linked together,~~

~~said method comprising the steps of:~~

(a) preparing a deformable perform having a first rectangular general shape,

[[ (a) ] ] (b) preparing a complementary preform comprising an elastic support, of a second rectangular general shape, wherein the second rectangular general shape and the first rectangular general shape are homologous, said complementary perform having at least one conductor fixed thereon in a loose manner, along a path having a third rectangular general shape,

(c) maintaining the deformable perform wound on a periphery of a support for a tire carcass in an assembly for manufacturing a tire,

Appln No. 09/581,329

Amdt date March 23, 2004

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[[b]](d) adding the complementary preform to the deformable preform on said support in said assembly, such that said third rectangular general shape extends substantially across a length and a width of said first rectangular general shape and such that said third rectangular general shape is located under the tread area of the tire, [[and]]

[[c]](e) linking free ends of the complementary preform together, substantially when the free ends of the deformable preform are linked together[[.]], and

(f) stretching the assembly in an outward general direction, with the stretching being carried out after free ends of the deformable preform are linked together.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the deformable preform comprises a deformable preform for a sealing layer,

wherein step [[b]](d) comprises inserting the complementary preform between the deformable preform for a sealing layer and a radial carcass ply of the tire.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of either claim 16 or 17, wherein said path of step [[a]](b) has a general shape of a rectangular open loop.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the short sides of the rectangular open loop are joined at step [[b]](d) to be substantially adjacent.

Appln No. 09/581,329

Amdt date March 23, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 24, 2004

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein step [[a]](b) comprises preparing the complementary preform with a second conductor, forming a second loop, homologous with said open loop, on the elastic support.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the open loop and the second loop are fixed to the elastic support by an overcasting technique or a tacking technique.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein step [[a]](b) comprises connecting the open loop and the second loop to an active element, connecting the open loop to at least one electrical component and connecting the second loop to at least one electrical component.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein step [[b]](d) comprises positioning said active element under the deformable preform for the tire carcass.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein step [[b]](d) comprises leaving two free ends of each of the open loop and the second loop visible, for common connection to an active element, and for individual connection to at least one electrical component, after either of steps [[b]](d) and [[c]](e).

25. (Original) A tire, comprising, fixed under its tread, at least one conductive loop which has, when opened out

Appln No. 09/581,329

Amdt date March 23, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 24, 2004

flat, a rectangular general shape, a short side of the rectangular general shape extending substantially over a width of the tire and a long side of the rectangular general shape extending substantially along a periphery of the tire.

26. (Original) The tire of claim 25, further comprising an active element implanted under the tread and connected to said loop, so as to be capable of transmitting information relating to a state of the tire.

27. (Previously Presented) The tire of claim 25 or 26, wherein said loop is capable of interacting by electromagnetic coupling with at least one other loop, tuned therewith in terms of frequency, and placed in an external proximity of a periphery of the tire.

28. (Original) The tire of claim 26, further comprising another conductive loop, for delivering power to the active element.

29. (Original) The tire of claim 26 or 28, wherein the active element comprises a miniature sensor placed so as to be sensitive to a radial acceleration of the tire.

30. (Original) The tire of claim 26, further comprising a nonvolatile onboard memory connected to the active element.